

The Bishop of Southampton has accepted a vice-presidency of the Missions to Seamen, which maintains a chaplaincy and three readerships for the service of the shipping off the coasts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Rev. John Newman Harrison, of Reigate, was presented recently with a purse of five hundred guineas, on the occasion of the jubilee of his ministry as vicar of that parish. The subscribers numbered nearly a thousand.

A retreat for laymen is to be held, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, in St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday and Sunday, the 2nd and 3rd of May. The retreat will be conducted by the Rev. Fr. Maturin, S.S.J.E.

The Rev. F. H. Burrows, Diocesan Inspector of Schools for the Diocese of Manchester, and Chaplain of the Prestwich Union Workhouse, has been offered by the bishop, and has accepted, the living of Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne.

The Rev. Charles Lester, who has for thirteen years been in charge of St. John's Church, Bootle, has accepted the offer of the country rectory of Bleadon, near Weston-super-Mare, which has been made to him in exchange by the Bishops of London and Bath and Wells.

At a special meeting of the London Diocesan Council of the Church of England Temperance Society, the Rev. Dr. F. E. Ridgeway was elected chairman for the year 1896-7, and the Rev. W. G. Morcom and Mr. Joseph Box were elected vice-chairmen, and Mr. A. F. Govett, J.P., as treasurer.

The Vicarage of Hartford, near Huntingdon, to which the Rev. Dr. Banks has been inducted, is of the gross value of £120 per annum, with sixty-four acres of glebe and a residence. At one time in its history the vicarage was part of the marriage settlement of the wife of Oliver Cromwell.

A public invitation has been issued, dated Easter Sunday, by Cardinal Vaughan (England), Cardinal Logue (Ireland), and Cardinal Gibbons (America), to the people of these three countries, to unite in urging the formation of a permanent tribunal as an International Court of Arbitration.

The Commission of Inquiry into the validity of Anglican Orders met at the Vatican. The President of the Commission is Cardinal Mazzella. Theoretically, the deliberations of the Commission are absolutely unimportant, as the Pope could, if he wished, ignore any decisions to which it might come.

Canon Knox Little has finally decided to decline the vicarage of Mortlake, and the Dean and Chapter of Worcester have conferred it on the Rev. Walter Coplest on Furneaux, Vicar of Leamington. He graduated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and was for a time Curate of Leeds under the Bishop of Truro.

A chapel in Hyde-Park place has lately been built and is now being decorated with pictures by Mr. Frederick Shields. The purpose of the chapel is indicated by notices on each side the entrance door, where "passengers through the busy streets of London are invited to enter the sanctuary for rest, silence and prayer."

A complete set of white linen vestments was presented to the vicar of St. Ives, Cornwall (Canon Jones), by the churchwardens in the name of 90 communicants, and were worn for the first time on Easter Day. There was a large increase of communicants last Easter Sunday. Church life in the old town is looking up.

At St. Paul's, enormous congregations thronged the building throughout Holy Week. The services were as usual; on Easter day—celebrations of the Holy Communion at 7.15, 8 and 8.30. The canticles at Matins were sung to Gunod's setting, the office of the Holy Communion to Stainer. The evening preacher was the Rev. Berdmore Compton.

A handsome memorial porch has been completed at the entrance to Hawarden Church, in memory of the late Mr. William Henry Gladstone, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone. A figure of the Good Shepherd occupies a niche above the entrance, and on either side are angels carved in relief. Beneath these figures are placed the words, "Holiness to the Lord."

The Rev. Forbes Phillips, on Easter Eve, admitted four Roman Catholics into the Church of England. The ceremony took place in Gorleston parish church, and the service used was that drawn up by Convocation in 1715, kindly supplied by the S.P.C.K.

The converts had already been confirmed by a Roman bishop, and on Easter Day they all communicated at the early celebration.

A massive jewelled altar cross, candlesticks, and vases, which have been presented to Ripon Cathedral in memory of the late Mrs. Bickersteth, were dedicated at the Easter Eve service. During the processional hymn the clergy and choir passed up the centre of the cathedral to the east end, where the dedicatory prayers were said by the Dean. The hymn, "Holy offerings rich and rare," was sung kneeling.

The Archbishop of York recently dedicated a number of gifts which have been presented to the Church of St. Matthew, Naburn, near York. The articles presented consist of seven antique Venetian brass sanctuary lamps, some handsome brass altar rails, and a beautiful Italian reredos in the form of an oil painting of the Crucifixion in three panels. The artist is a young Florentine painter, Signor Bargellini.

At the annual meeting of the North-Staffordshire Coal and Ironstone Workers' Permanent Relief Society, at Stoke-on-Trent recently, the Duke of Sutherland presented to the Bishop of Shrewsbury a fine old English chased silver bowl, as a token of the appreciation by the members of the bishop's untiring labour on their behalf during the last thirty years as chairman of the General Committee. There were 4,000 subscribers to the testimonial.

Mr. Byron Reed, M.P., having expressed the desire to resign his post of special lecturer of the Church Defence Institution from mid-summer next, the committee have unanimously resolved that "while accepting a resignation which terminates a long and much valued service, the committee remember with gratitude the zeal, energy, courage, and success which for over twenty years, and in most difficult times, Mr. Byron Reed maintained the cause of the Church."

Dr. E. J. Baxter, of Mpwapwa, in a letter to a Society writes: "I am glad to say that there is no longer any famine at Mamboya, but at Mpwapwa and Kisokwe the poor people are still suffering, having to live, except for the help we can give them, almost entirely on weeds gathered in the gardens and on the plain. Till the last few days the prospects of harvest looked very black, owing to drought. Now we have had some splendid showers, and everything looks more hopeful."

A correspondent who was present at Ely Cathedral in Holy Week says: "Many are doubtless wont to regard the capital of the Fenland as consisting merely of a noble cathedral and a tiny village beneath it. Such persons would have been struck with wonder had they heard the strains of Haydn's Passion music, as sung by the local performers, and witnessed the vast and reverent throng which filled Allan of Walsingham's Lantern to overflowing, and stretched far down into the nave."

At the early celebration of the Holy Communion on Easter Eve in the mortuary chapel of St. Sepulchre in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Paddington, an anonymous donor put £2,000 into the offertory for the purpose of entirely wiping away a large debt which had accumulated on the church and parish. The vicar, the Rev. W. H. Bleaden, announced the fact to the congregation, and a solemn *Te Deum* of thanksgiving was sung after Evensong.

The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels have made grants for building the new Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hindley Green, near Wigan, £80; and towards enlarging and otherwise improving the churches at Cliffe-at-Hoo, St. Helen, near Rochester, £50; and Sunderland, St. John, £50. Grants from the Mission Buildings Fund have also been made for building mission churches at Northwood, Middx., £10, and at Hope, Hanley's, Staff S., £50.

By the direction of the Dean and Chapter, the window in York Minster, commonly known by the name of St. William's Window, has been recently thoroughly repaired. The stone work has been almost entirely renewed, the glass has been cleansed, releaded and carefully replaced. This has been done at a cost of £500, and not only the colouring, but the detail of the subjects in this remarkable window now stand out with a clearness, and are more easily distinguishable than has been the case for many generations past.

On Good Friday an ancient custom was observed at the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield. Twenty-one poor widows, mostly octogenarians, assembled in the graveyard at the

west end of the church, and in the presence of a large number of persons, including Mr. Churchwarden Turner and the rector, the Rev. Sir B. Savory picked up sixpenny-pieces from a certain "flat" tombstone. Out of a sum invested four years ago, a sum of 2s. is given to a few octogenarians, both male and female, to spend between Hosanna, Sunday and Easter Day.

Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

N. B.—If any one has a good thought, or a Christian sentiment, or has facts, or deductions from facts, useful to the Church, and to Churchmen, we would solicit their statement in brief and concise letters in this department.

Powers of Churchwardens.

SIR,—The letter signed "Lex" in your issue of April the 2nd, replies clearly to my enquiry respecting churchwardens' powers. But for all that, my own rector interprets a Canon of the Synod of Huron as giving complete powers to the churchwardens under his advice to appropriate the weekly offerings (given for current expenses) towards beautifying and furnishing a new church built by the congregation themselves, without any consultation or consent of the vestry. To my mind this is contrary to the spirit of the Canon. It is certainly opposite to the "trend of Church history, which clearly indicates that the laity were consulted and taken into confidence." St. Cyprian, about the middle of the third century, said he did nothing without the advice of the laity, and it was only during times when the people were indifferent and ignorant that their power was suppressed. The Rev. Chancellor J. J. Lias, at a recent Decanal Chapter in my own county town in England, where the subject under discussion was, "How can vestry meetings under present circumstances be made more useful to the Church?" also affirmed that in arrangements of matters which concerned all, all should be consulted, with the exception, of course, that in the teaching of the people the clergy were responsible only to God and to the Church at large.

EX-CHURCHWARDEN.

The Extension of the Episcopate.

SIR,—I worked a parish consisting of four churches and a mission room for two and a half years (July, 1889 to January, 1892), in the county of Grey. It was about equal to two townships in extent, and was getting larger in almost every direction while I was there, without interfering with neighbouring parishes; and for the latter half of 1891 I held services in a sixth place—a vacant church—on Wednesday evenings. It became impossible for me to continue the work as it was, and I doubt if any clergyman could do so for many years. I would have either to work only part of the parish or resign. I chose the latter course and my responsibility ceased there and then. I hold that it was then the duty of the Church to make that into two parishes. It would have to either do so, or close up the weaker but not inferior portion. And I am sorry to have to say that the latter course was taken. The clergymen could close stations five and six themselves (for the third clergyman is there since my time), and the "Executive Committee" closed number four for them. Now what I believe would have been right for that parish when it was mine, I consider to be the best thing for this diocese. The Chatsworth parish would keep two good, able-bodied clergymen busy enough; and so would the Diocese of Huron tax all the strength, skill, and energy of two of our ablest and strongest bishops. As it was with the weaker portion of that parish, so it will be with many of the rural districts of the diocese in the future unless the remedy be speedily applied. That each of the Dioceses of Toronto and Huron is large and strong enough to be divided cannot well be denied by those who compare them with the others in this ecclesiastical province. Let us compare the whole number of clergy in each diocese in 1894; Algoma 29, Niagara 67, Quebec 72, Fredericton 79, Montreal 113, Nova Scotia 115, Ontario 184, Huron 155, and Toronto 189. When a diocese includes a large city, with many parishes therein, a bishop can oversee the work done by a larger number of clergy than he can where nearly all the parishes are in towns and villages. So the Diocese of Huron is in as much need of division as that of Toronto. It more closely resembles that of Ontario, which, though smaller, has already been divided, largely through the wisdom of the Archbishop. I will now proceed to suggest a division of this Diocese of Huron. Considering its shape, and seeing the direction in which the leading railways